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The Urban District Council of Wigston



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1966

Incorporating a report on
the sanitary circumstances
of the District prepared by
H. Deamer, M.A P.H.I., Chief
Public Health Inspector.

R. W. Kind, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS AND STAFF

Medical Officer of Health

ROBERT WILLIAM KIND M.R.C.S.. L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector &
Cleansing Superintendent

H. DEAMER M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector &
Deputy Chief Cleansing Superintendent

M. JONES M.A.P.H.I.

(Left 7th October, 1966)

Second Additional Public Health Inspector

T. TOWNSEND M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

(Appointed 1st March, 1966)

Clerk/Typist

Miss S..WADE

(Appointed 1st March, 1966)

Area in acres	3,411	Number of houses occupied	8,339
Rateable value at 1st April 1966	£1,015,875	Additional occupied houses combined with shops	129
Sum represented by penny rate	4,361	Number of houses owned by the Council ...	1,336
Population (mid 1966)	25,900		

BIRTHS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Legitimate</u>	
Male	304	
Female	289	
Total	593	

Illegitimate

Male	11
Female	7
Total	18

Total Live Births

Male	315
Female	296
Total	611

Stillbirths

Male	3
Female	1
Total	4

Birth rate per 1,000
estimated population25.5

DEATHS

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>All causes</u>
Male	114
Female	96
Total	210

Deaths from puerperal
causes NIL

Deaths of infants under one year

Male	5
Female	4
Total	9

Deaths of infants under four weeks of age

Male	3
Female	2
Total	5

Death rate per 1,000
estimated population . 8.1

Infant mortality per
1,000 live births .. 14.7

Cause of Deaths

Year ending 31st December 1966.

Registrar General's Classification	Male	Female	Total
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory	-	1	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal Infections	-	-	-
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
8. Measles	-	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	1	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2	3
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung bronchus	12	2	14
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
14. Malignant neoplasms, lymphatic and other	11	11	22
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	1	-	1
16. Diabetes	-	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system	13	16	29
18. Coronary disease, angina	28	17	45
19. Hypertension with heart disease	2	1	3
20. Other heart disease	12	10	22
21. Other circulatory disease	2	3	5
22. Influenza	1	1	2
23. Pneumonia	4	5	9
24. Bronchitis	5	2	7
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	2	-	2
26. Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	-	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	1	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-	-
29. Hyperplasia of the prostate	1	-	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations	2	2	4
32. Other defined and ill defined diseases	9	8	17
33. Motor vehicle accidents	4	1	5
34. All other accidents	2	3	5
35. Suicide	1	2	3
36. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	114	96	210

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

TUBERCULOSIS

There was one death from this disease during 1966. Six new cases came to notice, their distribution being as follows:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	3	2	5
Non-pulmonary	-	1	1

The total number of cases residing in the District at the close of the year was as shown:

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Pulmonary	23	19	42
Non-pulmonary	-	2	2
Totals	23	21	44

OTHER NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

The following cases were notified:

Measles	.....	140
Scarlet Fever	.....	3
Whooping Cough	.....	3
Dysentery	.....	3

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS

Six individuals were brought to notice as not receiving care and attention.

Action under the National Assistance Acts was necessary to secure the admission to hospital of one man.

A REPORT
ON THE SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES
OF THE WIGSTON URBAN DISTRICT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1966.

H. DEAMER, M.A.P.H.I.,

Chief Public Health Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent.

1. WATER SUPPLY

The supply has been satisfactory both in quality and quantity. A limited number of complaints have been received regarding rust discolouration of the water, arising from mains without internal protection but there has been no trouble, as there was last year, from asellus in the mains water.

Of the 25,900 persons living in the 8,663 houses in the district all but 4 persons have an internal piped supply. These four are in two isolated farm houses with a well water supply.

Examination of water

(a) Mains Water

Eleven samples taken for bacteriological examination were reported satisfactory.

(b) Well Water

Two samples of well water taken for bacteriological examination after filtration by a household, candle type filter were reported satisfactory. A check sample taken before filtration was found to be grossly polluted.

(c) Swimming Bath Water

21 samples from the pool and two from the foot bath were reported to be bacteriologically satisfactory.

Early in the year a long felt need was met, from a physical recreation and public health point of view, by the opening of the Wigston Urban District Council Swimming Pool.

The pool, which is covered and heated and provided with a sun bathing terrace, is ideally situated in the centre of the Urban District on the Abington School base. The pool dimensions are 110 feet by 35 feet and the depth varies from 3 feet to 11 feet 6 inches. A one metre and a three metre spring diving board are provided. There is accommodation for 300 bathers, and balcony seating accommodation for 240 spectators.

Box and rack storage of clothing, under supervision, is provided and access to the pool is only possible through a foot bath.

2. SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Every part of the Urban District is sewered with the exception of the east part and Kilby Bridge. Consequently only 46 dwellings are not drained into public sewers and more than half of these have waterclosets drained to septic tanks and filters or cesspools.

Approximately half of the Sewage Disposal Works extension is completed. Phase 1 of the new trunk sewer scheme was completed during the year and Phase 2 is to be commenced in 1967.

13 samples of sewage effluent were examined during the year and all found highly unsatisfactory. It is hoped that in the next Annual Report I will be able to comment that conditions have improved due to the completion of the new Sewage Works.

3. CESSPOOLS AND CLOSETS

It is estimated that there are 10,514 water closets in the district. There are only 15 pail closets, 17 cesspools and 9 septic tank and filter schemes. The contents of cesspools and pail closets are removed and disposed of by the Council free of charge.

4. SHOPS ACT, 1950

During the year, the duty to enforce the provisions of the Shops Act, 1950, and of the orders made under these provisions, was transferred, as respects Wigston, from the Leicestershire County Council to the Wigston Urban District Council.

The Chief Public Health Inspector and the two Additional Public Health Inspectors were appointed Inspectors for the purpose of the Act from the 1st July, 1966, but due to the resignation of one of the Additional Public Health Inspectors these duties have evolved upon the remaining two inspectors since the 10th October, 1966.

To enforce the provisions relating to general closing hours, trading on the statutory early closing day and Sundays, it has been necessary to carry out inspections and observations at night and on Sundays. Tribute must be paid to the Inspectors for the amount of useful work they have performed during the short period they have been engaged on this work and also their enthusiasm, patience and tact during the administration of a most complex and anomalous Act. Some of the provisions are so anomalous as to be ridiculous and amendments are overdue. One of the first problems of any significance related to two laundrettes. These were, and are, performing a useful role, especially in the help they gave to spinsters and bachelors living on their own and to working housewives.

Under current legislation, as long as assistants were employed at these "shops" the shop had to be closed on one half day - a week day - each week, close not later than 9.0 p.m. on Saturdays and 8.0 p.m. on other week days and not open at all on Sundays.

A large number of customers were found to be using these shops very late at night and Sunday was the most popular day of the week.

The respective owners were informed that in my opinion if no persons were employed about the business of the shop after the legal closing hours i.e. the machines became entirely customer/coin operated and no member of the firm was in attendance, the customers could use the shops on a self service basis after the legal closing hours.

The owners took advantage of this opinion and complete coin operation is in being after the shop assistants leave the premises at the end of their legal working day.

Inspections

General	.....	55
Others	.....	35
Night & Sundays	.....	144

Shops Act, 1950

	<u>Contraventions</u>		<u>Notices</u>	
	Found	Remedied	Served	Complied with
Sunday Trading	7	6		
Half holiday Trading	8	7		
Early Closing	16	11		
Assistants Half-Holiday	15	11		
Young Persons Employment	3	1	28	19
Total	49	36	28	19

5. REFUSE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

Periods between collections - January 1st. to
December 31st. 1966.

Collection Cycle in days	No. of times cycle achieved			
	Wigston Fields Gang	South Gang	Trade Gang	Meres Gang (New gang 25.7.66)
7	17	20	25	20
7 $\frac{1}{4}$	3		2	
7 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	1	1	
7 $\frac{3}{4}$	4		2	
8		1	2	
8 $\frac{1}{4}$	2			
8 $\frac{1}{2}$	2	2		
8 $\frac{3}{4}$		3		
9	2	1	3	1
9 $\frac{1}{4}$	3		1	
9 $\frac{1}{2}$		1	2	1
9 $\frac{3}{4}$		3		
10	1			
10 $\frac{1}{4}$		2		
10 $\frac{1}{2}$	2			
10 $\frac{3}{4}$	1		1	
11		2	1	
11 $\frac{1}{2}$	1			
11 $\frac{3}{4}$			1	
12		2	1	
12 $\frac{1}{4}$	1		1	
12 $\frac{1}{2}$		1		
12 $\frac{3}{4}$	1	1		
13	1		1	
13 $\frac{3}{4}$		1		
14	1			
14 $\frac{1}{2}$			1	
15		1		

The refuse collection fleet comprises 3 - 16/18 cu.yd. fore and aft tippers and 2 - 35 cu.yd. compression vehicles. With the delivery of the second 35 cu.yd. vehicle it was possible in July to increase the number of collection gangs from three to four and reduce the number of collectors per vehicle. This re-organisation has resulted in less visits to the tip by the vehicles, thus reducing the amount of collecting time lost and a consequent increase in the number of bins emptied per man per hour.

A further result of the re-organisation is that a weekly collection has been maintained except following holidays and the collectors have been able to earn maximum bonus.

The paper sack system of refuse storage at one hundred council dwellings has proved successful but for financial reasons it is not to be extended during the next financial year, excepting to 20 old people's bungalows now under construction.

The failure to acquire new tipping sites is still causing great concern but an appeal is to be made against the Planning Authorities refusal to allow land at Kilby Bridge to be used as a refuse tip and compulsory powers sought to acquire additional land to extend the Magna Road tip. Planning permission to use land at the Council's Sewage Works has not been sought in view of the River Board's proposal to set a higher Biological Oxygen Demand standard. This land abuts on to a tributary of the River Sence. I am of the opinion that with modern engineering methods, any seepage from tipped refuse could be prevented from directly entering the water way and pumped up to the sewage treatment plant for treatment with the sewage to give an effluent which could be run into the stream.

6. TRADE REFUSE

The Urban District Council reviewed and revised the trade refuse collection service and charges in August and the revisions became operative on the 1st October, 1966.

Previous to this no trade refuse was removed free of charge but now the following provisions apply in respect of refuse stored in bins.

- a) one bin be removed free of charge from all business premises where there is no living accommodation;
- b) two bins be removed free of charge from business premises with living accommodation;
- c) the charge for subsequent bins collected to be increased in all cases from 10d. to 1/-d per bin;
- d) the minimum quarterly charge of 10/-d be increased to 12/6d per bin.

The income derived from the collection of trade refuse during the financial year ending 31st March, 1967 was £1,081.

7. SALVAGE

Waste paper is collected for salvage during the normal collection of household refuse and stored in salvage racks on the vehicles. Apart from the revenue arising from the sale of salvaged paper valuable tipping space is conserved by salvaging waste paper. Consequently housewives bundling clean waste paper and keeping it separate from household refuse, for salvaging by the refuse collectors are contributing towards keeping down the rates. 148 tons of waste paper and 10 tons of cardboard were salvaged during the financial year ending 31st March, 1967 and sold for £1088 compared with £817 the previous year. This increase is commendable as in August 1966 the price of waste paper and cardboard

dropped by almost 30% and 22% respectively due to the national financial crisis.

In September 1966 the merchants who had been buying our paper and cardborad for over twenty years ceased to do so but, without any breakdown in the continuity of the salvage arrangements I was able to dispose of it through another merchant.

8. SANITARY INSPECTIONS OF THE AREA

870 complaints received.

226 concerned infestations of rats and mice.

452 concerned defective dustbins.

192 concerned other public health and housing matters.

971 premises were visited relating to nuisances or defects.

Visits and Inspections - Initial and return.

Accumulations,	21
Animals kept	14
Animal Boarding Establishments	7
Clean Air Act.	34
Caravan Act	6
Disinfection	1
Dirty premises etc.	13
Drainage	77
Dairies and Milkshops and Milk Regulations	6
Food premises and Food and Drugs Act.	235
Factories Act	40
Housing and Lodging houses	150
Ice-cream sampling	25
Improvement Grants	156
Infectious diseases and food poisoning	45
Interviews - Telephone	231
Others	134
Meat and Food inspection	194
Milk sampling	16
Miscellaneous	206
Nuisances	559
National Assistance Acts	15
Noise Act	36
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act	201
Public Conveniences	75
Prosecutions	2
Pet Animals Act	2
Rat and Mice Destruction (including visits by Rodent Operator.)	565
Refuse collection, disposal and haulage	1636
Slaughterhouses and Knacker Yards	5
Shops Acts	228
Schools	2
Water supply	18

Specimens and swabs etc.

Faeces	18
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Notices

	<u>Housing</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
Outstanding on 1st January.	49	15
Issued during year.	Nil	606
Complied with.	41	551
Statutory action taken.	Nil	Nil
Outstanding on 31st December.	8	70

Regulated Buildings

There are three residential caravans in the district on separate sites. All are well conducted.

There are two houses in multiple occupation. Both are well conducted. One is divided into four separate households, the only shared amenity being the bathroom. The other actually comprises two very large semi-detached houses occupied by the owner and his family who let off fourteen rooms to individual males. All meals are prepared and provided by the owner.

9. OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963.

During 1966, due to a shortage in the qualified staff of the Department, it has not been possible to increase the number of initial general inspections made over the number made during last year, although all new premises registered during 1966 have received inspections.

The total number of premises receiving general inspections was 74, approximately one third of the total number of registered premises, and of those 74 premises, 62 were retail shops. General and return inspections totalled 194.

However, it has been possible to increase the number of return visits to premises to follow up notices served, with the result that there has been an increased remedying of defects. (148 defects remedied in 1966 compared to 90 in 1965.)

On these return visits it was nearly always found that on the first return visit, approximately one month after the service of an informal notice, very little was done to comply with that notice, and thus it became increasingly necessary to overcome this apathy by employers by repeated regular visits to ensure that the required works were carried out.

As in 1965, the majority of defects were usually the absence of thermometers, abstracts or first-aid boxes, these accounting for approximately 50% of all defects found.

During 1966 a further 6 gravity feed slicers were found deficient in the required safety guards, 3 of these being remedied within the year, although there are still 10 known machines without these guards.

The proprietors of the premises with these unguarded machines are quite ready to fix such guards when and if they are obtainable, there being a wide variety of makes of these slicers and as such, the guards are having to be specially made or adapted to the machines, which is resulting in lapses of up to six and seven months in between ordering and supplying.

It has been noted that even where such guards have been supplied they are not being used, the reason given being that it makes the feeding of the slicer by short people very difficult and if working on the slicer regularly, very tiring.

Even when the dangers of such practices are pointed out to the operator and the employers, the operator has insisted on working with the guard off and the employer, rather than lose an employee through disagreement, has continued to allow the machine to be so used, apparently prepared to accept the loss of that employee through the loss of a finger.

Registration and General Inspection.

Class of Premises	No. Registered during year.	No. on Register	No. of Inspections
Offices	2	32	20
Retail shops	20	159	159
Wholesale shops & Warehouses	1	10	10
Catering Establishments and canteens	Nil	15	5
Total	23	216	194

Analysis of contraventions found.

Cleanliness	8
Overcrowding	1
Temperature and thermometers	29
Ventilation	13
Lighting	16
Sanitary Conveniences	10
Washing facilities	15
Supply of drinking water	1
Floors, stairs and passages (repair, safety, obstruction etc.)	14
Dangerous machines	6
Prohibition of heavy work	1
First aid general provisions	39
Structural	19
Posting of Abstracts of Act.	44
Total	<u>216</u>

Four non-fatal accidents were reported; two at retail shops and two at a wholesale shop/warehouse. One of the accidents at the latter involved a Young Person lifting a heavy object.

10. PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are only two licensed premises in the district and sales are mainly restricted birds.

11. ANIMAL BOARDING ESTABLISHMENTS ACT, 1963.

At the one licensed establishment in the district the accommodation for dogs is being increased from 38 to 56. The establishment specialises in boarding dogs, the bulk of them being strays brought to the premises by the police and various Animal Welfare organisations.

12. FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960 and FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955.

Mobile food shops have always been a problem especially with regard to the provision and, what is more important, the maintenance of adequate hand washing facilities and hygienic storage of food both in the shop and at the premises - often only a garage from which the shop operates.

The problem has been accentuated recently in the ice-cream trade by former producer/sales firms hiring vehicles and equipment

and selling bulk ice-cream to self-employed salesmen. In some cases the owner of the vehicle and equipment disclaim responsibility for the cleaning of the vehicle and equipment and have no check on the suitability of premises, if any, at which the vehicle and any unsold ice-cream was stored overnight. Public Health Inspectors have, however, clamped down on this unsatisfactory state of affairs and are to be helped to some degree by The Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, which come into operation on the 1st January, 1967.

Important provisions of the new Regulations are that a mobile food shop must bear the name and address of the person carrying on the food business i.e. the person handling the food in a hired vehicle and also the address at which the vehicle is kept or garage and the vehicle and food must be kept under arrangements where both can be kept clean and the food free from contamination.

I am pleased to report that the local ice-cream firm requires all its salesmen to return sales vehicles to the depot daily and that the firm carries out all vehicle cleaning and equipment cleaning and sterilising with trained staff.

One bakehouse and one fish and chip shop and a wet fish and poultry shop closed during the year whilst a new fish and chip shop and a supermarket opened.

Unsound food and foreign objects in food.

Complaints received and investigated under this heading included:

- 1) Three dirty milk bottles.
- 2) Wire in a packet of butter.
- 3) Cardboard in a packet of margarine.
- 4) Mould on cooked meat.
- 5) Two cases of mould in meat pies.
- 6) Mould on bread rolls.
- 7) Round worm (filaria bicolar) in cod fillets.
- 8) Wasp in a jar of jam.
- 9) Caseous lymphadenitis in leg of New Zealand lamb.
- 10) String in a loaf of bread.

With regard to (3) investigations revealed that a sliver of cardboard had been forced through the wrapper into a half pound packet of margarine during the opening of a bulk carton with a case knife and that with this form of opening similar contamination was happening fairly frequently. The matter was taken up with both the manufacturers of the margarine and the retailers, with a request to the former that the effect of using case knives to open margarine cartons should be made known to the retail trade, either by circulars or press notices.

Legal proceedings were instituted as follows:

<u>Statute</u>	<u>Offence</u>	<u>Result</u>
Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 2.	Wire in butter.	Case dismissed.
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959.	Dirty milk bottle.	£5 fine.

In all cases where prosecutions were not instituted but some action was necessary, warning letters were sent to all persons or firms involved, intimating that subsequent similar offences would lead to stronger action.

Premises Inspected	Visits made	Contraventions	
		Found	Remedied
Bakehouses	2	14	3
Butchers	21	15	11
Cafes	7	20	6
Canteens, kitchens etc.	5	0	1
Dairies & milkshops	4	1	1
Flour & sugar confectionery shops	19	12	4
Fish and chip & fishmongers	10	17	17
Greengrocers	7	3	0
Grocers & general shops	56	48	36
Licensed premises	5	14	0
Mobile	6	6	1
Off-licensed premises	20	16	7
Slaughterhouses	2	7	1
	164	173	88

The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations, 1960/1963.

<u>Dairies & Distributors of Milk.</u>	<u>Dairies.</u>	<u>Distributors.</u>
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Number on register	2	32
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Bacteriological Milk Samples

Untreated	1
Pasteurised	10
Sterilised	5
	<u>16</u>

All samples satisfied the prescribed tests.

Ice-cream

84 premises are registered for the storage and sale of ice-cream, a reduction of 10 since last year. One firm operate a fleet of vehicles retailing soft ice-cream.

25 samples were taken from 5 different manufacturers. 10 of the samples were of soft ice-cream.

GRADE I	21
GRADE II	1
GRADE III	2
GRADE IV	1
	<u>25</u>

Meat and other Foods Inspection

The one licensed slaughterhouse in the district has been conducted in a satisfactory manner throughout the year.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	335	-	-	2796	437	-
Number inspected	335	-	-	2796	437	-
<u>All Diseases except Tuberculosis.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	91	-	-	210	283	-
Percentage of Number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis.	27.1	-	-	7.5	64.7	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	-	-	-	-	1	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	6	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases sub- mitted to treat- ment by refrig- eration.	1	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally con- demned.	-	-	-	-	-	-

Disposal of Condemned Food.

The following foods were surrendered, condemned and disposed of by deep burial at the Council Refuse Tip.

	Tons	Cwts	Lbs
Meat from slaughterhouse		12	69
Cooked meat and meat products			16
Canned meat		1	58
Fish			102
Fruit and vegetables		5	73
Other foods		1	24
	1	2	6

Knacker Yard.

There is one establishment in the district and it has been well conducted.

13. NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960

10 complaints were received and 33 visits made to 10 premises. Two informal notices were served and complied with and two outstanding notices from 1965 were complied with during the year.

The complaints related to noise from:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| a) a motor cycle; | f) dance bands at a public house; |
| b) factory telephone bells; | g) outworkers' machines at two houses; |
| c) a barking dog; | h) a motor mower; |
| d) metal fabrication factory; | i) an air compressor. |
| e) factory radio system; | |

All the nuisances were abated.

14. RODENT CONTROL - PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

There are approximately 750 sewer manholes in the district. Starting in late 1965 and extending into 1966 treatment of the sewers was carried out at 156 selected manholes using pin head oatmeal as a bait base and fluoracetamide as a poison. At 127 manholes there was no take, at 3 a partial take and at 26 a complete take of bait.

The manholes showing take and other manholes on the same or adjoining run of sewer, totalling 74, were again baited but no take was recorded indicating a very successful treatment result.

Surface treatments

Under this heading 565 inspections were made at 226 properties.

Approximate number of properties to be protected - 9258.

Number of properties inspected as a result of:

a) Notification	176
b) Survey under the Act etc.	50
	<u>226</u>

Number of properties found to be infested:

a) Rats	142
b) Mice	6

A charge is made for the services of the Rodent Operator at business premises but dwelling houses are treated free of charge.

15. HOUSING.

During the year, apart from four houses, the Council's 1954 Slum Clearance Programme, as amended, has been completed. The four houses remaining are occupied by elderly people and the Council resolved that demolition orders should not be made while the current occupants remain in the houses.

Recent restricted surveys of houses revealed that since the 1954 survey approximately a further 100 houses would be found unfit if inspected in detail and near the end of the year 23 of these houses in three areas were represented as unfit.

In view of the satisfactory progress made in slum clearance, the large number of owner/occupied houses in the district and the demand for Council house tenancies lessening, the current policy of the Council is not to build more Council houses but to house applicants for Council houses and rehouse persons displaced from condemned houses in existing Council houses as the latter become vacant.

Slum Clearance Programme, 1957 - 1966.

Houses Dealt With				Houses demolished		Houses closed
Number of Clearance Areas	Number of houses	Individual unfit houses.	Total	Clearance Areas	Individual Unfit houses	
40	247	34	281	211	30	3

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year.

1. a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts.) ... 854
- b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 1640
2. a) Number of dwelling houses inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932. ... 44
- b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 44
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... 39

Removal of Unfit Houses

Clearance Areas represented during year:

Area No. 55:	6 to 12 Horsewell Lane.	4 houses
Area No. 56:	110 to 124 Bull Head Street and 2 to 18 Newton Lane.	16 houses and 1 shop. 20 houses and 1 shop.

Individual Unfit Houses represented

37 Clarkes Road	1
1 Frederick Street	1
1 Cottage, Blunts Lane	1
5 to 13 Burgess Street	5

Demolition of Unfit Houses

Clearance Areas

Area No. 38:	1 to 7 Rutland Terrace	7 houses
Area No. 39:	34 to 44 Moat Street	6 "
Area No. 40:	48 to 54 Manor Street	4 "
Area No. 41:	4 and 6 Newgate End	2 "
Area No. 42:	1 to 15 Gladstone Street	8 "
Area No. 44:	3 to 17 Junction Road	8 "
Area No. 45:	36 to 44 Frederick Street	5 "
Area No. 49:	4 to 14 Mowsley End	6 "
Area No. 50:	8 to 14 Waterloo Crescent	4 "
Area No. 51:	174 to 180 Oadby Road	4 "
		<u>54</u>

Individual Unfit Houses

Cottage Blunts Lane	1
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Unfit Houses Closed

37, Clarkes Road	1
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Unfit houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied:

a) after informal action by local authority	98
b) after formal action by local authority	nil

New Houses

Total no. of applicants for Council houses at end of year	278 (387)
Applications received during year	137 (127)

Programme of Local Authority Houses

Erected during year	64 (36)
In course of erection at end of year	24 (64)

Total of post war houses completed

Local authority	1044 (980)
Private enterprise	4029 (3488)

Figures in brackets are those for 1965.

16. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS - HOUSING FINANCIAL PROVISIONS ACT 1958 - HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT 1959 - HOUSING ACT 1957 to 1964.

Before and since the inception of the Housing Act, 1964, house to house visits have been made, and are continuing to be made when other duties and staff sufficiency allows, to publicise the Improvement Grant Schemes and particularly to ascertain from occupiers of rented houses if they are willing to have improvements carried out and pay the permitted increase in rent and rates. Explanatory leaflets setting out specimen schemes and cost, and the increase in rent and rates, are given to tenants and sent to owners of the houses at which tenants have expressed interest in improvements.

I am not satisfied with the response which I am of the opinion is due, inter alia, to:

- 1) the relatively small number of houses in the district without at least a bath and some form of hot water supply;
- 2) the small number of tenanted old houses, i.e. over 60 years old, in the district. As the power to compulsorily improve houses applies to tenanted houses only and with the consent of the tenant, the low proportion of tenanted houses in the district mitigates against the setting up of Improvement Areas in Wigston;
- 3) the majority of the tenants in the houses mentioned under (2) being old, not wanting modern facilities, the bother of their provision or to pay the increased rent and rates arising from improvements;
- 4) the increase in rents and rates arising from the improvements;
- 5) a de-controlled house becoming rent controlled as soon as a grant is received and such control continuing for a period of three years;
- 6) the possibility of Central Area Development.

Under this heading 156 inspections were made during the year.

	<u>Discretionary Grants</u>	<u>Standard Grants</u>
No. of applications received	N	24
No. of applications approved		24
No. of dwellings improved during year	I	29
Applications from owner /occupiers		16
Applications from owners of tenanted houses	L	8

Amount paid in grants

Discretionary	Nil
Standard	£5950.5s.8d.

17. FACTORIES

There are 153 factories on the register.

a) Inspections

Premises	No. of Inspections	Defects found	Defects remedied	Notices served
Factories with mechanical power	36	10	7	10
Factories without mechanical power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
	36	10	7	10

b) Outworkers

No. of local firms employing outworkers	...	22
No. of local outworkers employed by such firms	...	147
No. of outworkers outside district employed by local firms	...	131
No. of local outworkers employed by firms outside district	...	58
No. of outworkers in district	...	205

(employed during the six months preceeding August 1966.)

The various trades carried on at factories in the urban area are:

Agricultural machine repairing
Baking
Babywear making
Bar-fitting and plastic fabricating
Biscuit manufacture
Boot and Shoe manufacture and incidental trades
Boot and shoe repairing
Building and joinery
Carton adaption and repairing
Concrete batching
Corset making
Cycle repairing
Cotton waste and bobbin recovery
Dyers and finishers
Drum and instrument making
Electrical component making
Electro plating
Electric vehicle making
Engineering - general
Engraving
Football jersey and stocking making
Film laminaters
Furniture repairing
Grain drying
Heating element making
Hosiery making, dyeing and finishing
Ice-cream making
Iron founding
Jersey fabric making
Knocker
Knitted outorwear making
Laundry
Lighting and electronic engineering
Milk pasteurising
Motor vehicle repairing and maintenance
Non-ferrous metal foundry
Paper baling
Plant hire
Pattern making
Plastic moulders and colourers
Portable buildings
Pre-cast concrete manufacture
Printers
Photographic lithographers
Radio and television receiver repairing
Railway wagon repairing
Sausage, meat pie and cooked meat making and preparing
Slaughtering
Spring manufacture
Tailoring
Woodworking and case repairing
Wood last making
Worsted spinners
Wool packing
Waterways maintenance.

Factories Act, 1961.

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961.

PART I

1. INSPECTIONS

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	1			
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	152	36	10	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises.)				
	153	36	10	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found.

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)			Nil		
Overcrowding (S.2)			Nil		
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)			Nil		
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)			Nil		

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied	Referred		
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)					
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
a. Insufficient	10	7			
b. Unsuitable or defective					
c. Not separate for sexes					
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork.)					
Total	10	7			

PART VIII

Outwork (Sections 133 & 134)

Nature of Work	No. of outworkers in August list required by S.133(1)(c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices served and prosecutions.
Wearing apparel-Making etc. Cleaning and Washing.	205				

18. CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

No serious long standing industrial smoke nuisance exists in the Urban District and whilst atmospheric pollution from the domestic fire is gradually declining, it is disappointing in this period of relatively cheap gas, electric, oil and smokeless fuels, that large numbers of households still burn highly volatile bituminous coal.

Not only atmospheric pollution but nuisances can be caused, and especially on housing estates with a preponderance of bungalow dwelling, by the tarry, sulphur laden smoke emitted from the chimneys of coal burning appliances beating down into and around dwellings.

29 recorded visits and 13 observations of emissions from industrial chimneys and one industrial bonfire were made at 11 premises.

12 nuisances were recorded; 3 informal notices served and 2 complied with. A grit arrestor is being fitted to the flue of a waste wood furnace

/ to abate

to abate a nuisance arising from the discharge of charred wood waste from the installation. .

2 chimney heights were calculated following submission of plans for industrial buildings.

One solid fuel boiler has been converted to burn gas fuel and another to burn oil fuel and 2 very large boilers are to be replaced in 1967 by 3 oil fired boilers.

Conversion of two coke fired boilers to burn gas fuel was requested on the grounds that there was danger to the boiler attendant from fumes. The request was complied with. The boilers were in an underground room which was inadequately ventilated and difficult to ventilate even if mechanical means had been used.

19. STAFF

In March, 1966, the vacant post of second additional public health inspector was filled and a female clerk/typist appointed.

In October, 1966, the first additional public health inspector and deputy cleansing superintendent resigned to take an appointment with a neighbouring authority.

APPENDIX 'A'

I am indebted to the Engineer and Surveyor to the Wigston Urban District Council for the following report.

RAINFALL IN 1966

At Wigston U.D.C. Sewage Farm.

In the County of Leicestershire.

Diameter of Funnel 8 inches.

Height of top above ground 9 inches.

Height of ground above sea level 259 feet.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Total Depth</u>	<u>Greatest Fall in 24 Hours</u>	<u>Number of Days with</u>	
			<u>.01 in. or more</u>	<u>.04 in. or more</u>
January	1.15	.21	20	9
February	3.53	.57	20	14
March	0.68	.24	12	7
April	3.35	.60	19	16
May	2.20	.54	14	13
June	2.45	.71	13	11
July	3.18	.50	18	10
August	3.26	1.05	16	10
September	1.18	.28	8	6
October	4.28	.94	19	15
November	1.71	.40	22	11
December	3.07	.60	24	18
<u>Totals</u>	<u>30.04</u>		<u>205</u>	<u>140</u>

Note: Figures quoted from 23rd September to 16th October refer to Leicester Town Hall.

